

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03158 191456Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00  
PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
DODE-00 SY-05 PER-01 A-01 AID-05 HA-05 /063 W  
-----094052 191510Z /53

O 191443Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9083

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 3158

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, ET  
SUBJ: PMGSE INTENTION TO ARREST EMBASSY LOCALS

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM RELIABLE SOURCE THAT PMAC STANDING COMMITTEE HAS INSTRUCTED PUBLIC SECURITY DEPARTMENT AND OTHER SECURITY ORGANS TO ARREST ERITREANS IN ADDIS ABABA WHO HAVE BEEN UNDER SUSPICION OR SURVILLANCE.

2. PARTICULARLY WORRYING TO US IS FACT ERITREAN EMPLOYEES OF EMBASSY WERE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN THE CONTEXT THAT "MOST" OF THEM ARE TO BE ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF BEING CIA AGENTS. OTHER ERITREANS TO BE ARRESTED INCLUDE ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT AND ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES.

3. IT HAS BEEN GENERAL TALK OF ADDIS FOREIGN COMMUNITY THAT PMGSE HAS BEEN ARRESTING ERITREANS IN GREATER NUMBERS DURING PAST FEW WEEKS. WE KNOW FOR FACT THAT JUST THIS WEEK SEVERAL MANAGEMENT-LEVEL OIL COMPANY OFFICIALS OF ERITREAN BACKGROUND HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, INCLUDING AGIP DEP MANAGER (WHO IS HUSBAND OF EMBASSY LOCAL) AND A MOBIL OFFICER WHO IS ALSO MEMBER OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ADDIS 03158 191456Z

4. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO MOFA OFFICIAL COMPLAINED TO CHARGE THAT EMBASSY WAS HARBORING ERITREAN EMPLOYEES HOSTILE TO IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND U.S. WE HAVE SUSPECTED FOR A LONG TIME THAT A GOOD NUMBER IF NOT ALL OUR ERITREAN EMPLOYEES WERE UNDER SURVEILLANCE, BUT REPORT IN PARA ONE IS FIRST EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS THREAT.

5. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO TAKE PREEMPTIVE ACTION TO FORESTALL ARRESTS AND POINT OUT THEY WOULD BE PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE AT TIME BOTH PMGSE AND USG ARE TAKING VISIBLE STEPS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS, E.G., CHAIRMSN'S SCHEDULED PROMPT RECEPTION OF AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS. IN THE EVENT ANY LOCAL EMPLOYEES OF ERITREAN BACKGROUND TRY TO SEEK DE FACTO ASYLUM, AT LEAST ON TEMPORARY BASIS, BY NOT GOING HOME AT NIGHT FROM COMPOUND, EMBASSY WILL INFORM THE DEPT AND SEEK INSTRUCTIONS BY IMMEDIATE NIACT. WE HAVE NOTED EXTREME OR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS PURSUIT BY A MOB, WHICH JUSTIFY TEMPORARY REFUGE (2 FAM 228.3 AND REITERATED ON PAGE 2 OF 74 STATE A-6610). ANY ADDITIONAL ADVANCE GUIDANCE WHICH THE DEPT WOULD WISH TO GIVE US WOULD BE WELCOME.

CHAPIN

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL, ARRESTS, ERITREANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ADDIS03158  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780296-0571  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780745/aaaabljf.tel  
**Line Count:** 78  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 7ad9b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1962218  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PMGSE INTENTION TO ARREST EMBASSY LOCALS  
**TAGS:** PINS, AFSP, ET, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/7ad9b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014